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### UM student documentary on tribal sovereignty airs March 15

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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March 7, 1997

### **UM STUDENT DOCUMENTARY ON TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AIRS MARCH 15**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The meaning of tribal sovereignty, both on and off Montana Indian reservations, is the subject of a University of Montana student documentary set to air Saturday, March 15, on Montana Public Television.

"Native America: Whose Land? Whose Law?" will air at 4 p.m. on UM-based KUFM-TV and Montana State University-based KUSM-TV. The hourlong program was produced by the 35-member Student Documentary Unit.

Anchored by Anna Rau of Helena, the documentary covers sovereignty issues involving land use, the criminal justice system, business and taxation, gambling and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Student reporters visited the Crow, Blackfeet and Flathead reservations to capture current issues on video.

This year's documentary is particularly timely, said the program's producer, Suzi Jewett of Ennis, noting that each of the topics covered "is a high-conflict issue in Montana right now." Students tried hard to balance each segment between native and nonnative viewpoints, Jewett said.

"Native America" is probably the most ambitious effort in the 11-year history of the Student Documentary Unit, said SDU supervisor Bill Knowles, UM professor of radio-television.

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The SDU has won numerous state and regional honors and three national "Mark of Excellence" Awards from the Society for Professional Journalists.

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Specialized western papers, dailies, tribal  
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